

This media kit is designed to facilitate your arrival at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to cover the Military Commissions.

Please keep in mind that the dates and times you are given are tentative and subject to change.

Some important reminders:

BRING ORIGINAL SIGNED GROUND RULES AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS.

We have a copy of those faxed to the Pentagon, but you should keep a copy with you.

BRING YOUR PASSPORT! You will be going through customs on the way home.

Bring sufficient cash (\$250 recommended); ATM's will not be easily available. Meals will be paid in cash only.

Prepare for tropical weather (sun block, mosquito repellent, sunglasses, head covering to protect yourself from the sun).

Don't forget any personal items you need (e.g. prescription medication).

Do NOT bring film cameras. Only digital photos are allowed on the island. (ensure you bring sufficient memory cards for cameras).

Make sure you have all your required equipment, next day mail is not available in GTMO.

For Internet or long-distance service from Guantanamo you must register with SCSI.

All Military Commission observers must wear appropriate attire. Casual business attire is appropriate for civilians. Acceptable casual business attire includes long pants, collared shirts with sleeves, and covered-toe shoes. Individuals wearing inappropriate attire will not be permitted to observe courtroom proceedings from either the courtroom or the CCTV viewing area.

Colonel Terrance Holliday
U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs
Representative for Military Commissions

MILITARY COMMISSIONS INFORMATION PAPER

Under the President's Military Order of November 13, 2001, those tried by military commission may include:

- Members of Al Qaida
- People involved in acts of international terrorism against the United States
- People who knowingly harbored such terrorists

Commission Membership and Selection

- The Secretary of Defense may appoint members and other commission personnel, or select an Appointing Authority to choose commission personnel.
- The Appointing Authority will designate a Presiding Officer to preside over commission proceedings. The Presiding Officer will be a judge advocate.
- Commissions will consist of the Presiding Officer and at least three other members, with one or more alternates.
- Commission members are officers in the United States Armed Forces, including reserve personnel, National Guard members, and retired personnel recalled to active duty.

A Full and Fair Trial

- Military defense counsel will be provided for the accused. In addition, the accused may choose his own counsel: another judge advocate or a civilian attorney (at no cost to the Government).
- Civilian attorneys must be US citizens and eligible for a Secret security clearance.
- The accused and counsel will see copies of the charges in their native language prior to trial.
- The accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty.
- The accused may be found guilty only when commission members are convinced of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.
- The accused may refuse to testify during trial. No adverse inference will be drawn.
- The accused will be able to obtain witnesses and documents to use in his defense.
- The accused may not be tried twice before a military commission for the same offense.
- The accused may enter into a plea agreement.
- The accused may be present at every stage of proceedings unless disruptive (except when hearing is closed). Detailed counsel is never excluded.

Trial Format

- The Presiding Officer has the authority to admit or exclude evidence and to close proceedings to protect classified information, intelligence or law enforcement sources, methods and activities or to protect the safety of defendants, witnesses, and commission members.
- Trial proceedings will be open unless otherwise determined by the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer may also allow attendance by the public and press. Photography, video and audio recording and broadcasting will be prohibited.
- Evidence, including previous trial testimony and written statements, will be admissible if it would have probative value to a reasonable person (Evidence must be relevant).
- Witnesses will testify under oath, and will be subject to direct and cross-examination.
- For witness safety, some testimony may be accepted by phone, through the use of pseudonyms, or during closed proceedings.
- Commission members will deliberate on findings and sentencing in closed conference.
- A conviction requires a vote of two-thirds of the commission.
- Sentences of life imprisonment or a lesser term, fines and restitution, or any other punishment deemed appropriate requires a vote of two-thirds of the commission.
- A death sentence requires a unanimous vote, by a panel of at least 7 commission members.

Post Trial

- A three-member Review Panel, appointed by the Secretary of Defense, will review trial findings within 75 days and either provide a recommendation to the Secretary of Defense or return the case for further proceedings. The panel will include three military officers but may also include civilians temporarily commissioned as military officers.
- Findings and sentences are not final until approved by the President or Secretary of Defense, but findings of "Not Guilty" cannot be changed.
- The procedures may be amended by the Secretary of Defense to accommodate changed circumstances.

JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO FACT SHEET

The first JTF-160 personnel arrived at U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO), Jan. 6, 2002 and the command (now JTF-Guantanamo) presently includes approximately 2,100 U.S. service members and civilians representing all five military service branches. On Nov. 4, 2002, JTF-160 merged with JTF-170 to form JTF-Guantanamo.

Mission

JTF Guantanamo conducts detention and interrogation operations to collect and exploit intelligence in support of the Global War on Terrorism, coordinates and implements detainee screening operations, and supports law enforcement and war crimes investigations.

Camp Delta

Construction of 408 units began Feb. 27, 2002. Three hundred detainees were transferred from Camp X-Ray to the newly constructed Camp Delta on Apr. 28-29, 2002. With the additions of Camp 2 (May 28, 02), Camp 3 (Oct. 22, 02), Camp 4 (March 03), and Camp 5 (May 04) Camp Delta currently has approximately 1000 detention units.

Each unit has a floor-style, flushable toilet, a metal bed frame, and a sink with running water. Units measure 8' x 6'8".

Camp Four located inside of Camp Delta opened in March 2003. This camp provides a communal living environment with increased exercise time. The capacity is approximately 200.

Camp Five, located adjacent to Camp Delta, is a maximum-security semi-permanent hardened facility with the ability to house 100 detainees. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to maximize the efficiency of the guard force while safeguarding its inhabitants.

Detainees are allowed to pray as desired, speak with ICRC representatives and medical staff, eat three halal-appropriate meals each day (to accommodate Muslim detainees), exercise in multiple exercise yards, take regular showers, read the Koran and related commentaries and reference books on Islam, and freely converse with detainees in adjacent units.

U.S. Military men and women provide daily internal and external security for the camp.

Camp America

The camp is composed mainly of 83 sea huts. They serve as administrative, medical, recreational and storage spaces. These spaces include a gymnasium, big-screen cable television room; call center and a computer room with Internet access.

Camp America North

Camp America North, home to the guard and security forces of Camp Delta and the joint task force staff, houses approximately 600 soldiers.

Camp America and Kittery Beach JAS

The Camp America and Kittery Beach Joint Aid Stations provide emergent and routine medical care for JTF troopers. These facilities serve as a compliment to the Naval Base hospital in providing comprehensive care to military members at JTF Guantanamo.

Seaside Galley

The supporting galley for Camp America and Camp Delta stood up Jun. 14 and is able to support up to 2,000 people per meal.

Café Caribe

The supporting galley at Camp Delta stood up Thanksgiving Day, 2003 and is able to support up to 1,000 people per meal seating approximately 100 people at a time.

Detention Hospital

A comprehensive hardened medical facility within the Camp Delta area is dedicated to detainee care. It provides staff and capabilities comparable to a full-service, modern medical hospital. The Detention Hospital is currently equipped to support 20 beds with a staff consisting of surgeons, doctors and nurses.

International Committee of the Red Cross

Initially a 5-member detachment, independently operated from JTF-GTMO, Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

HISTORY OF NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO

U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is the oldest U.S. base overseas and the only one in a Communist country. Located on the southeast corner of Cuba, the base is about 400 miles off the coast of Miami, Florida.

In December 1903, the United States leased the 45 square miles of land and water (GTMO includes the 2 ½-mile Guantanamo Bay, which empties into the Caribbean Sea) for use as a coaling station. A treaty reaffirmed the lease in 1934, granting Cuba and her trading partners free access through the bay, payment of \$2,000 in gold per year (\$4,085 today), and a requirement that both the United States and Cuba must mutually consent to terminate the lease.

Diplomatic relations with Cuba were cut in 1961 by President Dwight Eisenhower. At this time, many Cubans sought refuge on the base. U.S. Marines and Cuban militiamen began patrolling opposite sides of the base's 17.4-mile fenceline. Today, U.S. Marines and Cuba's "Frontier Brigade" still man fenceline posts 24 hours a day. In October 1962, family members of service members stationed here, and many base employees were evacuated to the United States as President John F. Kennedy announced the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. This was the start of the Cuban Missile Crisis, which resulted in a naval quarantine of the island until the Soviet Union removed the missiles. The evacuees were allowed to return to the base by Christmas 1962. Another crisis arose just 14 months later on Feb. 6, 1964, when Castro cut off water and supplies to the base in retaliation for several incidents in which Cuban fishermen were fined by the U.S. government for fishing in Florida waters. Since then, Guantanamo Bay has been self-sufficient and the Naval Base desalination plant produces 3.4 million gallons of water and more than 800,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity daily.

The base is divided into two distinct areas by the 2 ½ - mile-wide Guantanamo Bay. The airfield is located on the Leeward side and the main base is on the Windward side. Ferry service provides transportation across the bay. The primary mission of Guantanamo Bay is to serve as a strategic logistics base for the Navy's Atlantic Fleet (fuel and supplies), to support counter drug operations in the Caribbean, and as the primary location for Migrant Surge Operations in the Caribbean.

In 1991, the naval base's Migrant Surge mission expanded as more than 34,000 Haitian refugees passed through Guantanamo Bay. The refugees had fled Haiti after a violent coup brought on by political and social upheaval in their country. The naval base received the Navy Unit Commendation and Joint Meritorious Unit Award for its effort. In May 1994, Operation Sea Signal began and the naval base was tasked to support Joint Task Force 160, which was here to provide humanitarian assistance to thousands of Haitian and Cuban migrants.

In late August and early September 1994, 2,200 family members and civilian employees were evacuated from the base due to the strain on base resources as the migrant population climbed to more than 45,000 and the Pentagon began preparing to house up to 60,000 migrants on the base. The last Haitian migrants departed here Nov. 1, 1995.

The final Cuban migrants left the base Jan. 31, 1996. In October 1995, family members were authorized to return, marking an end to family separations. An immediate effort began to restore base facilities for family use, including a child development center, a youth center, two schools and Sunday school. Additionally, the revitalization of Boy and Girl Scout Camps and the Guantanamo Bay Youth Activities (a free sports program for children) was enacted. Since Sea

Signal, Guantanamo Bay has retained a migrant operations mission, with an ongoing steady state migrant population capability of up to 60. The base has also conducted two contingency migrant operations: Operation Marathon in October 1996 and Present Haven in February 1997. Both of these short-fused events involved the interception of Chinese migrants being smuggled into the United States.

After 52 years of service, Guantanamo's Fleet Training Group relocated to Mayport, Fla., in July 1995. One month later, the naval base lost another major tenant command when the base's Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity disestablished after 92 years of service here.

Major Units and Tenant Commands at Naval Station Guantanamo

Naval Station

Naval Hospital

Marine Corps Security Force

Personnel Support Activity

Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Command Detachment

Naval Media Center Detachment

Department of Defense Dependant Schools

GTMO DETAINEE PROCESSES

Admin Review

Definition/purpose: An annual review to assess whether an individual should be released, transferred or should continue to be detained. This will help ensure no one is detained any longer than is necessary, and that no one is released who remains a threat to our nation's security.

Applies to: All GTMO detainees

Link to fact sheet: <http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2004/nr20040623-0932.html>

Responsibility: Designated Civilian Official

PA Point of Contact: OARDEC PAO, [LCDR Chito Pepler](#), 703-692-4730; GTMO: 3088 or cell: 84437

Combatant Status Review

Definition/purpose: A formal review of all the information related to the individual to determine whether each person meets the criteria to be designated as an enemy combatant. (Enemy combatant is defined as an individual who was part of or supporting Taliban or al Qaeda forces, or associated forces that are engaged in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners. This includes any person who has committed a belligerent act or has directly supported hostilities in aid of enemy armed forces.)

Applies to: All GTMO detainees

Link to website: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Combatant_Tribunals.html

Responsibility: Designated Civilian Official

PA Point of Contact: OARDEC PAO, [LCDR Chito Pepler](#), 703-692-4730; GTMO: 3088 or cell: 84437

Commissions

Definition/purpose: Prosecute enemy combatants who violate the laws of war. Provides a fair and full trial, while protecting classified information and the safety of all those involved, including the accused.

Applies to: Non-U.S. citizens, found to be subject to the President's military order primarily based upon the individual's participation in al Qaeda and acts of international terrorism. Fifteen detainees have been found to be subject to the President's military orders as of July 7, 2004.

Link to website: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/commissions.html>

Responsibility: Office of Military Commissions

PA Point of Contact: OMC PAO, Maj Jane Boomer 703-602-1924

Detainee Operations

Definition/purpose: - Detain enemy combatants to prevent combatants from continuing to fight against the U.S. and its allies. Includes a process to identify enemy combatants' threat and intelligence value. As of January 1, 2006, 256 detainees have departed GTMO either for release or for transfer to the custody of another government.

Applies to: All GTMO detainees

Link to website: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/detainees.html>

Responsibility: JTF GTMO/SOUTHCOM

PA Point of Contact: [SouthCom Public Affairs](#) 305-437-1202; [JTF GTMO Public Affairs](#) 011-53-99-9928